



File Code: 7710

Date: March 23, 2009

Dear Friend of the Cibola National Forest,

The Mountainair Ranger District of the Cibola National Forest and Grasslands is proposing changes to its motorized travel system to comply with the national Travel Management Rule. The Rule, published in the Federal Register in 2005, requires each National Forest to identify and designate roads, trails and areas suitable for motorized use, and prohibits use of motorized vehicles that are not on the designated system. The designation process is for all motorized vehicles, such as full-sized vehicles, ATVs, motorcycles and may include the identification of the class of vehicle and possibly the times of year when use will be allowed.

The outcome of this process will be an amendment to the Cibola National Forest Land and Resources Management Plan and the publication of a Motor Vehicle Use Map for the Mountainair Ranger District that will show a designated system for motorized use. Once the official map is published, areas outside the designated system will be closed to motorized vehicles.

In January-February 2009, the Forest Service gathered information about motorized uses and concerns related to motorized use from interested citizens on the Mountainair Ranger District at public community meetings and meetings with tribes, Land Grant communities and other interest groups. Input from the public helped in the development of the Proposed Action, which proposes motorized routes that will be considered for designation for motorized use. The attachment "Scoping Report for the Mountainair Ranger District Travel Management Proposed Action" outlines the proposal and the Proposed Action maps display the proposal spatially for each Division of the District.

The development of the Proposed Action begins the process required in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The NEPA process begins with Scoping--a step to determine the range of actions, alternatives and impacts of the project to consider. Scoping includes an initial period when interested citizens can review the Proposed Action and provide comments, concerns and suggestions. This comment period will end on Friday, May 1, 2009. Information received during Scoping in response to the proposal will help the Forest Service refine the proposal and identify alternatives to the Proposed Action.

You are invited to attend one of the following Open Houses below to learn more about the Proposed Action and you will be provided an opportunity to make comments. If you need assistance with special needs for the Open Houses, please contact Nancy Brunswick by calling (505) 346-3900 or email ([mountainair\\_travel\\_management@fs.fed.us](mailto:mountainair_travel_management@fs.fed.us)). The Open House dates, times, and locations are as follows:

Tuesday, April 14, 6p.m. - 8p.m.

Belen Senior Center  
715-A South Main St.  
Belen, New Mexico





Wednesday, April 15, 6p.m. - 8p.m.

Corona Senior Center  
451 Main St.  
Corona, New Mexico

Tuesday, April 28, 6p.m. - 8p.m.

Mountainair Senior Center  
107 N. Summit Ave.  
Mountainair, New Mexico

In addition to attending the Open Houses, you may also view the proposal on the Mountainair District Travel Management website:

[http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/cibola/travel-management/tm\\_mt\\_air/index.shtml](http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/cibola/travel-management/tm_mt_air/index.shtml). You may make comments on-line by using the electronic map commenting tool (must have ADOBE Acrobat Reader to do this) or email comments to: [mountainair\\_travel\\_management@fs.fed.us](mailto:mountainair_travel_management@fs.fed.us). Please be as specific as possible in your comments to the proposal and include road numbers, local place names as well as starting and ending points. Comments will be accepted at any time throughout this process, but in order to feed information into the development of alternatives, they should be received no later than May 1, 2009.

Written comments on the proposal, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposed action and will be available for public inspection. Additionally, pursuant to 7 CFR 1.27(d), any person may request the agency to withhold a submission from the public record by showing how the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) permits such confidentiality. Persons requesting such confidentiality should be aware that, under the FOIA, confidentiality may be granted in only very limited circumstances, such as to protect trade secrets. The Forest Service will inform the requester of the agency's decision regarding the request for confidentiality, and where the request is denied; the agency will return the submission and notify the requester that the comments may be resubmitted with or without name and address within seven days.

The Forest Service will be analyzing the proposal and alternatives through fall 2009. There will be another comment period expected in late fall 2009 when the Environmental Analysis (EA) is completed. You will be notified when the EA is available for review on the web.

If you have any questions about this project, you may contact Roxanne Turley, Project Team Leader, at (505) 346-3900. Thank you for your interest and participation in this project.

Sincerely,



NANCY ROSE  
Forest Supervisor

Enclosures